

Conversation with 71 year old white female, Arkansas (Transcription)

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START M37 A(2)

S: She said during the Civil War she went around and her folks she'd holler soo, soo, til she found they'd whistle like a whale, and she'd take them food, and they had to keep all their food hid you know. Well they come a bunch of Rebels up Mulberry and they had old man <unintelligible text> as commander. I think he only had fifty or twenty-five men. Anyway he had half on one side of right over here at <unintelligible text>. Half on one side and half on the other side. And they was a hundred of those, and they was a fighting and he'd holler Close in on the right, close in on the left! And they got them scared and they run off. They worked them out, and just a bunch of little men. And then over on this other mountain well one of the I forget his name one of the old ones was over there and he told you know the women shot the same as men they had to to live. And he was in his house and he had to run off in the snow over knee deep, just in his old time shirts, that he slept in you know. And he said he had to run off in that snow. And they had holes about as big to stick the guns through you know around the house and the woman kept shooting everytime they dark the horse you know when there's snow out there's light. They'd shoot and he got away with all that shooting and they run off. And he had to run off in the snow.

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F: Was this your father?

S: That was some of the man owns a way back there I don't remember the name it seems like <unintelligible text>. I'm not sure that that was his name. And he had to run off and just leave his family. Now you know them was terrible

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times. And then grandmother was just a girl and she was, said that she just told us a few things. And she told us about her sister-in-law and her and they liked to killed her. Stomping her. And she said she begged for her but it didn't do any good they just you know how mean they did, during war they just slapped the fool out of her. And she couldn't do nuthing. Of course they saved her life. But she they stomped her and they was awful mean to her and they had to keep little boys hid. Then I think my daddy told me this. Down where <unintelligible text> used to live, my daddy's sister, there was a little old boy he was oh I'd say he was fourteen, twelve or fourteen, somewhere there. And he said he was a spy you know for the Civil War and he went plumb from here. Wellhe was a spy and they shot his arm off and he had to come home and the women folks was the only doctors they had you know, and they, I'll tell you - now his name - what was his name, <unintelligible text> Anyway he was a maybe he was old <unintelligible text>, anyway he got his arm off they had to hold him <gap> you know and keep him from bleeding to death. They got his arm stopped and he went plumb from here to Oklahoma, you know, spying. And they was gonna you know court martial him for running off ,but he had to run and he run all that time. And when he come back you know he just had one arm. And they found out what he'd been doing, he'd been a spying all that time. They was going to knock him out of his pension but he got his pension. Course he served all during the war he served as a spy

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for his side. And he just had one arm and he got his pension from that. And a boy on up of course he was a man when he come back, for a long time he had to stay here to help you know, but during the war they did it and..

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oh it was awful during the war. People had to keep their food hid. Everything hid. And then my grandfather <unintelligible text> he had a bunch of boys there was a whole bunch of them you knowed some of them, Dad and <unintelligible text> his name was <unintelligible text>, and there was <unintelligible text> an <unintelligible text> and <unintelligible text> and it was Custer and there was a bunch of them boys and you know there was still a few snipers here. And grandpaw lived right over here at the <unintelligible text> you've seen that old house I guess before old <unintelligible text> tore it down. It had a big chimney. Well they set out and grandpaw'd say when I say, is that you <unintelligible text> or any of the kids he'd said you answer me. Well he wouldn't <unintelligible text> was trying to sneak out. He shot his own boy. But he didn't know it. And then he said Dad don't shoot no more its me. And it was just a little gun <gap> and he carried the bullet on his shoulder blade as long as he lived. But he should of say you know when he said is that you <unintelligible text> or that you <unintelligible text> or any of them they should say it. And once in a while they'd come get in his barn and he'd have to just wait around and run them off he couldn't even go feed. Well that was my grandfather. And he fought during the Civil War and they all did. Grandmother told me lots of tales about that. But I don't know too many, or just what she told me. And she - she told me all these stories. And she said they had to be awful careful and when she was out going to milk. They killed their only milk cow. You know and thats all the milk they had during that time. She'd have to go out and take them food. All during the time. And a lot of people in those days you know would

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mend shoes and things. And they to stay hid in the thicket and work and mend all their shoes. And they used wooden pegs and mending shoes then they didn't have - they

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just put a little wood pegs you know. Mended shoes, to us grandfather done that I think in the thicket. Mend these shoes and he was always mending the kids shoes and they'd take a sharp nail and then put the wood peg in. That's the way they mended shoes. But I said I wouldn't know nuthing about something like that myself. And that's the way they done and that's the way a lot of them old timers done. During the war . But it was awful in here. And I said - I told my son - I said they fought to free this country and now they want to take it and make a wilderness. Why? I can't see it. And then they fought - this war was only fought because somebody wants to take over.

S2: I said other people they got the bombs.

S: Well, that's what they say they'd do. They're trying to keep them from taking - I don't know why they want to take the land when the people has got their own land. But I told my son I said well that's all right. But they're going to fight for that land and I think they'll have a war right here in the United States. I'm not sure but I believe they will. Cause they ain't going to give up that easy. And they went over there to their meeting, but you know they wouldn't stay. And its this forest service I guess you must know about the forest service and I told them they should fight til the end. They wouldn't. And they couldn't. And I tell

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my son they'll still fight for this. And I heared on the radio the other day that they one of the Congress, has stopped that. They aint gonna let 'em take no more. You know they've got about all they've got about all they need. They took a big farm over here. That was a beautiful farm I've seen pictures of it, but I never was over there. Was you ever over th4re?

S2: Around the...

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S: They had old buffalo, they had some of the prettiest horses I've seen and <unintelligible text> said she went over there and you know that they had some of the prettiest horses you ever seen. And this girl her daddy left here that - they took it away from her and they made a park out of it. She had some of the beautifulest horses that I've seen the pictures, books of that farm. A wild buffalo. And they're taking Harrikent down there where Tad's folks are all buried and they wanna take it from them. And I think they done took it. But they're still a-letting people bury down there.

F: That's down around the buffalo too?

S: No, that's down on Harrican Creek.

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F: Where's that.

S: Well its back here Harrican runs down into Piney own here at Fort Douglas..

S2: Above Fort Douglas.

S: Above Fort Douglas. Harrican runs in that and it goes plumb back up here.

S2: Goes under here at

S: Yeah, its

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S2: There's a

S: And its down on the Creek though. There used to be Davis' that lived down there. That was the Post Office - but they ain't got no Post Office they just have mail goes across Harrican down carried the mail. Thats about all there is down there. People that owns land they <unintelligible text> take it. But I think that I don't think that they want to give up their land I really don't.

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F: You know there are a lot of them that don't.

S: No they don't. And there's some that'll fight for their land. They said well they'd just have to wait a while. They left the meeting. And my son's been a going to every meeting. And they been a bunch of them. But they don't stay long and these forest people don't stay long. They said they want to show them how beautiful it is, well I think its just a beautiful for the people thats tending there now. And some of them have to make a living that way. You take this Noland Hughes down on the he's up above Fort Douglas- up there on his daddy's farm. And he said she wrote a piece in the paper - you may have read it - about that was their bread and butter you see their cows and pastures and milking and they made their living you know - that was their bread and butter. Thats the only way they could live unless he could work and he can't work now. He's stove up, he got hurt in the woods.

F: The forest service doing all the replanting of the hardwoods with?

S: They want to take all this land and they want to get to where they don't want you - before before you can cut a tree on your land you'll have to ask them. I don't think the peoples gonna stand for that. They might.

S2: They want to stop all

S: I don't think they can do that.

S2: I told them <gap> because I'm old

S: I ain't gonna fight..

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S2: I ain't gonna run to them every time I cut a batch because I can get

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it done before they know the location.

F: Did you ever do any work with the sawmills or anything like that?

S2: I worked all my life.

S: He's worked all his life.

S2: I've worked over here I started sawing in '45 for them

F: What do you think about the deal they've got going in killing the hardwood and deadening all that and then coming..

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S2: That's one of the craziest ideas there ecer was. I've worked for the forestry service and I know they deaden trees and flatten down around fifty percent of the pine log trees. I walked off one from one of them trees I didn't even deaden it. My boss said well you're gonna have to do it and I walked off and left it.

S: Well, you take these trees and you kill them. You know we get our <gap> from those for school kids. You know my nephew he said he would let them cut a bit off of his land. Because you take all this fuel away and you got no breathing space. You take so much timber you know for breathing. And he said I ain't gonna let them cut a stick. That is Jimmy Young. And whenever you have to ask them if you can cut wood or anything thats getting pretty bad. And they're aimes to take all this right in here and I said they want to make this a wilderness like it was at start. You know this used to be a wilderness all of it. And they've, they's some pretty places in these woods. And pretty country all through here. And people that has come through here you know they've took pictures. And they say why don't you make a book of this pretty country. Where people used to live and houses and things. Why don't you make a book of that? Well I don't know how.

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But they say you can. <unintelligible text>

S2: All those places out there on that Creek go a ways back all outside and go up and <gap> timber and <gap> I got the old Heron plow and that was the first time I ever plowed.

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I got the <gap> first time I ever and I got the hounds down on right there <gap> I was up there sitting right on the fence.

F: So ya'll have lived just pretty well <unintelligible text> of your life right here?

S: <Past?> near right around here and back here.

S2: Back over there.

S: On the Harrican.

S2: On the Harrican.

S: And we pretty well most of the time they'd are living on the farm. You know farming, and I said these writers if they would make them a garden they could live. You know you can raise right near everything you need. Except a few things you'd have to buy. But not all - my daddy always raised one, big plot. And I was..

F: Do ya'll stil I keep a garden now?

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S: Yeah we have a garden nearly every year, but last year we made a boo-boo because you know it rained so much and then when it quit it just burnt up. You had two spells like that. But last year I bought beans, green beans and canned them. And when I canned them I had green beans. But we just lost <unintelligible text> everything nearly. We didn't have nothing only a few <unintelligible text> And <unintelligible text> had a few tomatoes but they soon burnt up Some years you do that way, but Daddy always told me every seven years you should rest that whole year. And I found out if you don't you make a of somebody. And every seven years you should rest one year.

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My daddy said if you didn't he didn't make no crop.

F: You should rest or you should rest your garden for seven years?

S: You should rest your garden or rest yourself. You shouldn't tend the garden daddy said. Every seven years. And the rest of the years you should save and can what you need. And lots of people do. Now my niece and her husband in Kansas City you know rase a big garden every year. She brought me some potatoes of what she had. Just in her little garden. Of course she lives and they raise everything she showed me some pictures she had of her food house she had a lot of food items and everybody can do that with it. Work at it. Do you make a garden every year? I know your dad does.

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S3: Yeah.

F: I'm sure you've done some - get out and do some hunting every once in a while?

S2: Oh I've just got to where I just can't get around in the woods pretty good. I just quit.

S: He just a-quit hunting because he can't get around and last time I was in the woods I fell down. You see I can't stand up any more. And I tell my son I'm getting pretty old and weighing too much. I'll be seventy-one my birthday. And I've said I'll quit going in the woods. My son got to where he don't want me to go in the woods. He said he's afraid I'll fall and hurt myself. Where I used to didn't fall and hurt myself bad as he did <gap>. I could get around good. Til you know, just the last few years. I think its good, I used to get out with my kids and run races with them. Well my nephew, run races with him I've quit though, I can't stand.